

(Rept. No. 108-267) on the resolution (H. Res. 360) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2622) to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act, to prevent identity theft, improve resolution of consumer disputes, improve the accuracy of consumer records, make improvements in the use of, and consumer access to, credit information, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO OFFER MOTION TO INSTRUCT ON H.R. 1588, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, subject to rule XX, clause 7(c), I hereby announce my intention to offer a motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 1588, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004. The form of the motion is as follows:

Mr. EDWARDS moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 1588 be instructed to agree to the provisions contained in sections 606 and 619 of the Senate amendment (relating to the rates of pay for the family separation allowance and imminent danger pay).

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO OFFER MOTION TO INSTRUCT ON H.R. 1, MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2003

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, subject to rule XX, clause 7(c), I hereby announce my intention to offer a motion to instruct on H.R. 1, Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act of 2003. The form of the motion is as follows:

- Mr. MICHAUD moves:
1. To reject the provisions of subtitle C of title II of the House bill.
 2. The House recede to the Senate on the provisions to guarantee access to prescription drug coverage under section 1860D-13(e) of the Social Security Act, as added by section 101(a) of the Senate amendment.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO OFFER MOTION TO INSTRUCT ON H.R. 1308, TAX RELIEF, SIMPLIFICATION, AND EQUITY ACT OF 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, subject to rule XX, clause 7(c), I hereby announce my intention to offer a motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 1308, Tax Relief, Simplification, and Equity Act. The form of the motion is as follows:

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee moves that the managers on the part of the House in the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 1308 be instructed as follows:

1. The House conferees shall be instructed to include in the conference report the provi-

sion of the Senate amendment (not included in the House amendment) that provides immediate payments to taxpayers receiving an additional credit by reason of the bill in the same manner as other taxpayers were entitled to immediate payments under the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003.

2. The House conferees shall be instructed to include in the conference report the provision of the Senate amendment (not included in the House amendment) that provides families of military personnel serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other combat zones a child credit based on the earnings of the individuals serving in the combat zone.

3. The House conferees shall be instructed to include in the conference report all of the other provisions of the Senate amendment and shall not report back a conference report that includes additional tax benefits not offset by other provisions.

4. To the maximum extent possible within the scope of conference, the House conferees shall be instructed to include in the conference report other tax benefits for military personnel and the families of the astronauts who died in the Columbia disaster.

5. The House conferees shall, as soon as practicable after the adoption of this motion, meet in open session with the Senate conferees and the House conferees shall file a conference report consistent with the preceding provisions of this instruction, not later than the second legislative day after adoption of this motion.

LIMITING NONECONOMIC MEDICAL LIABILITY DAMAGES

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday voters in my district will go to the polls and vote on an amendment to the Texas State Constitution to limit noneconomic damages in medical liability lawsuits.

Here in the House of Representatives, we passed H.R. 5 in the hopes of accomplishing the same goal last March, but the other body so far has failed to act. Texas voters will most likely approve this Constitutional amendment. I will be among the group voting in favor of this amendment.

So is a national solution still necessary? The answer is a very firm yes.

Mr. Speaker, this summer I was in Nome, Alaska, and I talked to the doctors of the hospital there. They are unable to have an anesthesiologist on their medical staff because they cannot afford the liability insurance policy for an anesthesiologist. This means that the doctors in that hospital who practice obstetrics must send their patients to Anchorage, Alaska, for C-sections. Mr. Speaker, that is a 90-minute plane ride, and I am given to understand the weather in Nome, Alaska, is occasionally disagreeable.

At Columbia University, the head of the residency program told me she had far fewer candidates for OB-GYN residencies than in years past, largely because of the liability crisis throughout the country. In fact, the head of that program went on to say they are now making candidates that they

would not have even considered for an interview 5 years ago.

While some States may have had the foresight and found a solution to the crisis, this remains a national problem requiring a national solution. The House has acted. The other body has not. Mr. Speaker, how can they do that.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

AMERICAN CRITICISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I hope all of my colleagues are paying attention to this 5-minute Special Order because there are a couple of things that should be brought to Members' attention in this body and the other body. The first one is the Saudi Arabian government has been and continues to be, in my opinion, complicitous in terrorist activities involving Americans abroad and here at home. The Saudi Royal Family, according to reports I have been made aware of, have been conduits or had conduits give money to terrorists and funded terrorist activities. And I think everybody in America knows that 15 of the 17 terrorists that attacked the World Trade Center were Saudis.

It seems to me incumbent upon our government to put pressure on the Saudi government to be a friend of the United States instead of an enemy. We should do everything we can to stop the Saudis from funding terrorist activities on the West Bank and Gaza in Israel. Toward that end, I hope that our Secretary of State, Colin Powell, might be paying attention to what I am saying tonight because it is important that our State Department deal with that on an every day, ongoing basis, to keep pressure on the Saudis to bring about positive change.

I know that we get an awful lot of our energy supplies from that part of the world, and Saudi Arabia supplies a lot of that, but that does not give them the right to support terrorism that threatens our friends in Israel or the people of the United States.

The second thing I would like to say is that there was a story, an editorial comment printed in Al Akhram, the official Egyptian daily newspaper this last week, and I would like to read what was said by the Egyptians toward the United States about the United States, and this is the official organ of the Egyptian government, their newspaper. This piece attacks the Americans over Iraq calling Americans cannibals. This is the government of Egypt speaking, prehistoric animals who feel

they have the right to dismember and eat their enemies and to make sure they are dead. The Egyptian newspaper says Americans are wallowing in blood and death and disembowelment, and for the crimes of the U.S. troops, the paper says, this is the Egyptian newspaper, an organ of the government, the proper response is to kill American troops.

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What does the Egyptian government do? Right now it is encouraging the America-hating because it takes the heat off of the government itself. This is how American-hating works around the world. Call us cannibals, and what we will do is, we will support you.

We give Egypt \$2 billion a year to help their economy; \$2 billion a year. And we have been doing it for a long, long time, ever since the Camp David accords were signed when Jimmy Carter was the President.

If we are going to be giving money to the Egyptians, then we ought to demand that they show respect for our troops and our involvement in the war in Iraq. Our troops went over there to liberate that country, to save those people from a tyrant, to stop terrorism in that part of the world and around the world. And for that our Egyptian friends, whom we give \$2 billion to a year, are calling us cannibals and saying that American troops should be killed and slaughtered.

This is something that we should not tolerate. And so I would say to our State Department and our fine Secretary of State, take a message to the Egyptian government, tell them to cut this out. If they want support from the United States, let them treat us with respect and treat our troops with respect who are laying their lives on the line for the people of Iraq and the people of this world on a daily basis.

Secondly, I hope our State Department will continue to talk to the Saudi Arabian government and tell them to get with the program and stop supporting terrorism around the world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KING of Iowa). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MENENDEZ addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to replace Mr. MENENDEZ on his time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

AMERICAN PARITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, the President announced to the American people yesterday that he intends in their name to borrow \$87 billion on top of the \$79 billion he borrowed earlier this year to rebuild Iraq, Afghanistan, and continue the struggle in that area.

Now, I would hope that the Congress this time will choose to scrutinize this request. The last time the President just breezed through here and the Congress said, \$79 billion, no problem. So I would hope every penny will be reviewed.

I would hope that this Congress would choose to pay for this instead of borrowing \$87 billion, indebting our children and grandchildren, by freezing tax cuts for the wealthiest people in the country. We could pay for it if we just stop cutting taxes.

But I really want to focus on a part of that which the President proposed, \$20.3 billion on top of \$2½ billion he requested earlier, to rebuild the infrastructure of Iraq, to build schools, electric grid, water and sewage, oil infrastructure, transportation, communications, housing, public buildings, roads and bridges, and money for the police, fire, the first responders.

Now, we are going to borrow \$20.3 billion in the name of the American people, and we are going to send it to Iraq to rebuild their country. Now, it has not been long since we heard from the Bush administration that this would be free, the architecture of the war in Iraq.

Secretary Paul Wolfowitz told a House subcommittee in March that Iraq would generate \$50 to \$100 billion of oil revenue over the next 2 to 3 years. We are dealing with a country that can really finance its own reconstruction and relatively soon. Mr. WOLFOWITZ is somehow still in good standing with this administration despite the fact that he was wrong by about \$100 or \$200 billion here. And the American people are going to be asked to pay for it.

Now, it is time for a little fairness and equity here. I have introduced with the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) a bill, the American Parity Act, which says that if the President is going to request \$20.3 billion to provide jobs and rebuild the infrastructure of Iraq, schools bridges, roads, highways, water systems and dredge the ports, all things which he is not funding here in the United States, then we should have dollar for dollar matching for that under the American Parity Act and put people to work here in the United States, invest in our infrastructure, roads and bridges.

Now, I had someone say to me, well, wait a minute, you are proposing to make the bill bigger here to borrow. Yeah, that is right. We would borrow \$20.3 billion to invest in our Nation in long-term projects, putting people to work today but also investing in roads, bridges, highways, water systems, things that will last us for decades.

Now, I do not object to borrowing money to invest in America and to put people into work in America, but I have a real problem with borrowing \$20.3 billion to invest in the infrastructure in Iraq while ours is crumbling here at home.

The President has proposed a zero fund, no funding of the dredging of ports in my district and elsewhere around the country, yet he is proposing to dredge ports in Iraq.

The President has not proposed a penny for the Federal Government to partner in waste water systems, yet it is estimated we have a \$16 billion annual deficit under Federal mandates in water systems that were being put in our communities from the party that said they were not going to send unfunded mandates.

Mr. Speaker, where is the money to help the communities meet those Federal requirements?

On Interstate 5 just in the State of Oregon, I know this goes on around the entire United States, we have a \$4.5 billion bridge replacement problem. That would put a lot of people to work. But the President is telling the Congress that there just is not money to put into the roads and bridges and highways here in the United States, and he is trying to reduce the spending. We are at a stalemate over a new transportation bill because the President says there is no money to pay for it. But somehow we can borrow \$20.3 billion to do those same projects in Iraq. When is the President going to propose to either fund or borrow the money to fund similar projects here in the United States of America? With the American Parity Act, if it were adopted as part of his proposal, we would fund, dollar for dollar, comparable projects in the United States, putting tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands of Americans to work and provide some fairness and equity and at least some return to the American taxpayers for their borrowing.

But I fear that this administration and the leadership of this House is not that interested in funding infrastructure work here in this country, but they are perfectly willing to borrow the money in the name of the American people to rebuild it in Iraq. It is a sad day for the United States Congress.

SOCIAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KING of Iowa). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address another serious security problem. It is retirement security. Let me read a quote from 1994:

"Failing to take prompt action on Social Security will burden our children and our grandchildren with benefit cuts and crippling taxes."

That was part of my opening statement as chairman of the Task Force on